

A GREAT DAY FOR THE WORLEY CLAN

By ARGUS

Dulwich Hamlet 1 Wycombe Wanderers 1

A CHEERFUL crew of Wycombe Wanderers footballers quit Champion Hill, Dulwich on Saturday full of the joys and "bring on Wimbledon" feelings.

The Wanderers had plenty to sing about. After months of frustration they had earned their first Isthmian League away point since September 1. They did it the hard way, surviving a furious second-half Hamlet rally thanks to determined sleeves-up defending.

It took desperate Dulwich 75 minutes of anguish and near-panic soccer before they could score a penalty equaliser. For most of the game they were given the run-around by an impeccably cool Wycombe side which moved the ball sweetly on a heavy ground.

This was a triumph for the Worley clan. Inside-right Len chased all over the field, especially during the first half, appearing at full back one minute to break up a Hamlet raid, dribbling the home defenders into a tizzy the next.

But no-one played better than left-half Dave Worley who, on

this form, has established himself for good in the senior side. His strength and coolness under pressure was most impressive.

Centre-half John Fisher was another Wycombe hero in a tremendous duel with international

Les Brown. When the heat was on Fisher's headed clearances earned Wycombe breather after breather and it was a tragedy that he should inadvertently handle the ball as a prelude to Reg. Merritt's spot-kick equaliser.

BEST SHIELD

Dead set on breaking the sequence of away defeats, the entire Wycombe defence played above itself. Given one of the best shields he has had this season, Ken Brown kept a very safe goal.

Failure to shoot frequently,

and indifferent finishing when they did, was again the chief fault of the Wycombe forwards, who weaved the ball through the Hamlet defence enough times to have scored far more than once.

But Wycombe's lone goal was a beauty. Paul Bates, who was closely tailed by pivot Jim Skipper on the strength of his four goals spree against Hamlet earlier in the season, calmly collected a 38th minute left-wing cross and drove the ball handsomely past goalkeeper Dave Darvill into the roof of the net.

Crisp raiding by Wycombe had dominated the early stages of the game. Dulwich right-back Dave Kent, managed to rob Len Worley but was so harassed under pressure that he walked the ball past Darvill and just avoided taking it into his own goal.

Both goals had narrow escapes, Wycombe being the luckier team when a fierce drive by Les Brown cannoned off the angle of the woodwork with Ken Brown airborn and helpless. Then Michael Rockell streaked away on the right-wing and his low shot struck Darvill on the body and ran clear.

Anxious to wipe off the Bates goal, Hamlet's forwards slogged away grimly in the second half but Wycombe defenders had nerves of steel. There was always the chance of a breakaway goal for Wycombe and it nearly came when Rockell cut the ball back neatly, but Bates drove at the goalkeeper.

Dulwich just about deserved their equaliser but on this form the Wanderers are clearly on the mend.